

**Governmental Affairs Committee
Regular Meeting
March 6, 2003 - 8:30 a.m.
Tribal Office Board Room**

1. **Call to Order & Roll Call-**

Committee Chairman Michael Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Those present: Ben Kaquatosh, Laurie Boivin, Kathy Kaquatosh and Ann Marie Johnson. Annette Warrington was absent.

2. **Moment of Silence** - A moment of silence was observed.

3. **Review Minutes Dated February 3, 2003-**

Motion made by Ann Marie Johnson to approve the minutes of February 3, 2003. Motion was seconded by Kathy Kaquatosh. All those in favor signify by saying aye, 4-for, 0-opposed, 1-absent. Motion carried.

4. **General Council Recommendations-**

Committee went into a lengthy discussion regarding the General Council recommendation to have community people on the Legislative Committees.

Committee members stated that the reason the committees are all department directors is because of their expertise and the main reason was a budgetary issue. By having directors as committee members, meetings could be held during the day and no need to pay extra. With the old way, the meetings were costing around \$250 per meeting. Currently with the new structure, the average is \$50.

Committee tossed around the idea to put one community member on each committee. In order to do this, the cost would be around \$4200 per year. Committee members stated that the posting would be done by the Chairman's office and the posting should be 30 days for people to apply. Committee members would like a special form for people to fill out instead of the letter of interest like what was done in the past, and the forms will be available in the Chairman's office.

Motion made by Ben Kaquatosh to recommend to the Menominee Tribal Legislature that one (1) Tribal Community member be placed on each Legislative Committee and that they be paid \$50.00 per meeting. Motion was seconded by Laurie Boivin. All those in favor signify by saying aye, 4-for, 0-opposed, 1-absent. Motion carried.

Committee would also like Legislative Staff to keep an attendance record for each of the community members.

Committee went into a lengthy discussion regarding the General Council recommendation of forming a Gaming Board separate from the Gaming Commission to replace the Casino Ad Hoc Committee.

Committee stated that the people who sit on the board should have strong backgrounds in business and finances. The board will work with the Gaming Commission but there is a distinct separation between the two. The board members must be able to withstand a local, state, and federal background check and a credit check.

Committee also feels that there needs to be some Legislative representation on the board but not enough to have a majority vote.

Motion made by Ben Kaquatosh to recommend to the Menominee Tribal Legislature the formation of a five (5) member Casino Board. All board members will be enrolled members of the Menominee Indian Tribe. Two (2) of the board members will consist of Legislative members and the criteria for sitting on the board will be; Board member candidate shall have a good background in financial analysis, creative and innovative in business practices, must be able to withstand a local, state, and federal background check, and a credit check will be performed. Motion was seconded by Kathy Kaquatosh.

All those in favor signify by saying aye, 4-for, 0-opposed, 2-absent. Motion carried.

Committee members feel that a form should be designed for any applicants for the Casino Board to fill out. Once the applications are turned in, the background checks will be done.

The committee would like to review ordinance 97-06 Menominee Indian Gaming Authority at the next meeting.

Motion made by Ben Kaquatosh that the Government Affairs Committee review ordinance 97-06 Menominee Indian Gaming Authority for further review to look at modifications or changes in the creating of an efficient Casino Board and that it be done within 40 days. Motion was seconded by Laurie Boivin. All those in favor signify by saying aye, 4-for, 0-opposed, 1-absent. Motion carried.

5. Discuss Legislative Motion Re: Ad Hoc's & Task Forces-

Committee members stated that the reason the Legislature wanted to the committee to discuss the issue is because the MTL/MTE, MTL/MISD and MTL/County committees are task forces and technically, task forces are temporary committee's. The Legislature needs to know if the task forces need to become standing Legislative Committees.

Committee members discussed the issue and felt that there are always issues rising with Menominee Indian School District, County and Menominee Tribal Enterprises and they think they should become standing committees. If these task forces become standing committees, they should meet on a "as needed" basis.

Motion made by Laurie Boivin to recommend to the Menominee Tribal Legislature that the MTE, County and MISD Task Forces become standing Legislative Committees and that they only meet on a "as needed" basis. Motion was seconded by Kathy Kaquatosh. All those in favor signify by saying aye, 4-for, 0-opposed, 1-absent. Motion carried.

6. Collections Policy Update-

Kathy Kaquatosh stated that she is still working on the policy and informed the new Chairman (Chapman) and committee member (Boivin) that she is working a basic collections policy for all departments to follow. Kathy stated that some departments have their own policies and some don't have any at all. Kathy would like to see everyone on the same page when it comes to collection.

Committee would like John Wilhelmi and Guy Keshena to work on the collections policy.

7. Other Business-

Committee discussed their meeting time. Chairman Chapman asked the committee if it would be possible to change the meeting day to either one of the mornings on the days of the regular Legislature meetings.

Motion made by Kathy Kaquatosh to have the Governmental Affairs committee meet on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00 a.m. Motion was seconded by Laurie Boivin. All those in favor signify by saying aye, 4-for, 0-opposed, 1-absent. Motion carried.

Ben stated that employee morale is at an all time low and for the most part it's because there are no merit or COLA increases. Ben has a suggestion that since no pay increases can be offered at the time of performance evaluations, employees be given days of vacation.

Motion made by Ben Kaquatosh to approve adding one (1) and two (2) day vacation on evaluations, step 1 would the employee would receive one day vacation and a two step increase the employee would receive two days vacation. This process will be temporary until the time comes when merit raises are paid to employees. The effective date will be from October 1, 2002. Motion was seconded by Laurie Boivin. All those in favor signify by saying aye, 4-for, 0-opposed, 1-absent. Motion carried.

Ben handed the committee members of a policy for Employer Provided Vehicles. Ben went over the policy with the committee.

Motion made by Ben Kaquatosh to approve the Employee Provided Vehicles internal administrative procedure. Motion was seconded by Kathy Kaquatosh. All those in favor signify by saying aye, 4-for, 0-opposed, 1-absent. Motion carried.

8. Adjournment-

Motion made by Ben Kaquatosh to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Laurie Boivin. All those in favor signify by saying aye, 4-for, 0-opposed, 1-absent. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Legislative Staff Services